

QA-29
Red Lion Mill
Crompton
Private

second half 19th century

The Red Lion Mill is one of two surviving water powered mills in Queen Anne's County. The present frame structure dates to the latter half of the 19th century, but the site has been used for a mill since the 18th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Red Lion (or Lyon) Mill, Godwin's Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Maryland Route 544, one mile southeast of Crumpton

CITY, TOWN

Crumpton

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Benjamin A. Clark

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Box 37

CITY, TOWN

Crumpton

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21628

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 24

Folio #: 624

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-29

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Red Lion Mill, also known as Godwin's Mill, is located on Red Lion Branch, a tributary of the Chester River. This stream flows from the central part of the county, in the vicinity of Barclay and Stevens Corners, north to empty into the Chester just east of Crumpton. The mill is located on a sharp bend about one-half mile above the mouth of the branch, and is directly adjacent to the new road from Millington to Kings Town (Maryland Route 544). The mill pond was located almost two miles upstream, and the stream was channelized to form a mill race to carry water down to the mill. Portions of the old mill race remain, and the apparent site of the mill pond has been located on the Godfrey farm, just north of Route 301.

The present mill building dates to the second half of the 19th century, and replaced at least one earlier structure. It seems probable that the stone foundation of the present mill dates to an earlier structure, but this is only conjecture. This foundation is 33 feet wide and 41 feet long. The foundation is built

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

into the stream bank at the southeast gable, but otherwise projects one full story above ground level. The upper structure is frame, rising two stories above the one story foundation. The building is three bays long and three bays wide, with a moderately pitched gable roof. It is oriented so that the northwest gable faces the stream and the southeast gable is built into the bank, allowing ground level access to the main working floor.

On the southeast gable, there are large "Dutch" doors in the center bay on the first and second floor, each flanked by a pair of six-over-six windows. The first floor door is protected by a small shed roof porch and no doubt served as a loading dock.

The southwest facade has a boarded-up opening in the center bay flanked by six-over-six windows on the first floor and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. There is also a small opening to the left of the boarded-up opening on the first floor, and a large iron pipe that protrudes from the center of the ground floor wall. An early photograph shows the wooden flume or forebay still in place on this facade, and it would appear that the iron

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

pipe probably supplied water from the flume to the water turbine which still remains in the mill.

The northwest gable has a six-over-six window in the center of the first floor and a six-light window in the center of the second floor.

On the northeast facade, a small, one-story shed-roof addition covers the northernmost end of the foundation. A large door in the northeast wall of this addition provides access to the interior of the mill. Although it is also constructed of stone, the walls are not keyed into the main foundation, and is certainly a later addition. To the left of the shed there is a door in the center bay and a six-over-six window in the south bay. Three six-over-six windows are symmetrically placed on the first and second floor. Several of these windows retain early wooden shutters constructed of vertical beaded boards on the exterior nailed to beaded horizontal boards on the interior.

The exterior of the building is covered with plain horizontal siding. A box cornice with a beveled crown mold extends across each facade, returns at the gables, and is carried up the gable

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

eaves.

The cellar or ground floor is the primary location for the heavier mill machinery. The cog pit is located along the southwest wall of the building. The water turbine, millstones, and the heavy gears are all located in this area. The stones were originally mounted near the ceiling, but these have fallen into the cog pit. A heavy concrete mounting block remains in the lean-to addition on the northeast side of the mill. This was apparently added in the early 20th century, when a large gasoline or diesel engine was installed. A whole series of drive shafts and wheels remain from this period, but the engine is gone. Miscellaneous pieces of broken and discarded machinery also remain. A heavy companionway stair is located near the center of the building.

The main working floor is divided into several specific areas. Machinery related to the grinding process is located along the southwest wall, directly above the cog pit. A circular hole in the floor delineates the original location of the mill stones, and a heavy oak crane remains next to the hole.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

This was clearly used to hoist the stones out when they needed to be dressed or replaced. A large metal hopper is located in the south corner. A company name plate on the face of the frame gives the following information:

The Haines Mixer

Size No. 1, Serial No. 962

Fairfield Engineering Co.

Marion, Ohio

Along the northeast wall, there is a small office, partitioned off with plain vertical boards, and a series of storage hoppers constructed with rough sawn lumber. A companionway stair to the upper floor is located near the center of the building, and the conveyor and elevator chutes are clustered in the same vicinity.

The upper floor also served as a work floor, with three large sifting machines still remaining more or less in place. The heavy drive shafts and wheels are mounted above the tie beams and out of the way of the work space. The grain was carried up from below by the elevator conveyors, then dropped

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

into several small bins mounted above the tie beams, and was channeled down into the sifters below. No manufacturers' labels could be found on any of this equipment, but one section of belt casing in the cellar carried the name "Barnard and Leas, Moline, Illinois". This is the same company which manufactured some of the sifting machinery in the Church Hill Mill (QA-181).

The framing system is typical for buildings of this type. Heavy principal posts run from the sill continuous up to the second floor top plate. They are arranged in a bay system, with one post at each corner and two intermediate posts along each exterior wall. The building is divided into three bays on each floor, with heavy intermediate girts running continuous from one side wall to the other. They are supported in the center by heavy chamfered posts with bearing plates. The gable-end girts are not as massive, and are not continuous, but are mortise-and-tenoned into the intermediate posts. Heavy sawn joists rest on top of the girts, and run parallel to the ridge of the roof. The roof framing is quite similar to the Church Hill Mill, but much heavier.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

Tie beams run across the building and are mortise-and-tenoned to the principal posts. The top plates rest on top of the posts, probably held by a mortise-and-tenon joint, but not pegged. Angled queen-post braces support heavy purlins, and are reinforced by secondary braces that run parallel to the rafters and are mortise-and-tenoned into the top face of the tie beams. The rafters are notched over the top plate and the purlin, and run continuous up to the peak, where they are mitred, butted, and nailed. All of the major framing members are machine sawn oak.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Red Lion Mill is one of two surviving water powered mills in Queen Anne's County. The present frame structure dates to the latter half of the 19th century, but the site has been used for a mill since at least the late 18th century. The stone foundation is of uncertain vintage and may pre-date the upper portion of the building.

This mill building shares a similar framing system to the Church Hill Mill (QA-181), but is larger and consequently more heavily constructed. Of particular interest are the roof trusses, which are quite similar to the trusses at Church Hill, but span a greater distance. Very little machinery has survived intact. A water turbine is supposed to have been installed in the mill in the late 19th century, and some machinery believed to date to this period remains in the cellar. The concrete mounting block for a diesel engine installed circa 1912 remains in a small shed adjoining the main building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

QA-29

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

Baltimore, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

1/31/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

A Brief History of Red Lyon Mill
Prepared for delivery at Queen Anne's Historical Society Meeting
January 25 (c.1975)
by Michael Bourne

Red Lion Mill is located in the seventh district in the upper part of Queen Anne's County. It is situated between Md. Rt. 544 and the Red Lion Branch of the Chester River, from whence it received its name, and is about one mile southeast of Crumpton.

Judge Carter asked me to speak to you today because my father had owned the mill and was the last to operate it as a mill. But, I will get back to that later in the sequence of events. I do recall from my father that he had traced the mill back to 1735. Unfortunately for the story of the mill that date still needs to be verified. I have only been successful in tracing the ownership and existence of a mill on the Red Lion back to the 1760's.

Kim Scheck has been very kind to share with me her reference to the mill which she gleaned from the Callister papers. The first is the earliest reference to the Red Lyon Mill. My incomplete chain of title begins in the following year and is rather vague about the mill, since I was trying to trace back the house on the property. Let me read first a letter from Henry Callister to George Garnett, Esq. dated 10 March 1762

"Sir:

The Sherriffe of Queen Anne's County has given me notice dated 16 Feby. which I only received yesterday that he has received a warrant to resurvey the lands in dispute between me and John Hughes; the Mill of Red Lyon.

I hope you will be present at this survey if you had been by at the last, the thing would not have been blundered altogether....

Mr. Jacob Boots lost his wife lately and has married the widow Sutton. It may chance to be fit you should know this."

Several other letters in the following years mention the boundary dispute between Callister and Hughes, each shedding a small bit of information about

the mill, the miller, and other marvellous bits of irritation to Henry Callister. Please let me quote from these:

"

Q. Annes 3 Jan1764

Sir (Mr. Garnett)

I sent my boy to the ferry with the enclosed; the ferry was shut by the ice: which I could not think, as we kept ours open. In the meantime I recollected that I had need of council on the matter you are a judge of. You know why and wherefore I recovered a distrain on Woollaston Rent due, against Miles at the mill house; that house lying on the same tract. You know that Hughes has no title but possession to the house next the place where the mill stood. There is no mill. But Hughes has planted a nest of beggars, Nan Tate and her retinue in the house to keep possession. A certain rent ought to be due from the time I had before distrained; can I distrain for it and for how much. Hughes has added, in order to secure my possession, his leaving in the house a chest intended to be full of Goods. Can I distrain upon them? If I get Nan Tate and her gang out peaceably, can I to any effect lock or nail up doors. In short can I throw (?) the women out pell mell or can I bargain with Nan Tate.

Lastly what would you do in my case. If I have once obtain possession Hughes has no title to Ejectment, I think.

I have further been informed that these women who keep their doors constantly shut, per order, have instructions in case of my driving them away, to crop the branch and get into a logg house on Hughes own land. If they should lock or nail the door of my house, cannot I break in upon distrainer or for possession when they are gone?

Please to think of any other circumstances, and give me your advise; It will perhaps be better than to commence new ejectment."

Another letter, with no date, but probably within the year reads as follows:

"Sir:

I have yesterday _____ Nan Tate. To _____ is _____ for expell. She was not indeed in the house but there was a girl who had only come the day before. And tho she had very strict orders given her about the doors etc. yet matters were so managed that I got entrance and possession without rout or vict or even an angry word. I sent for Tate to take away her goods and those of Hughes; I nailed up the doors and windows and posted this warning upon the door as follows: John Hughes, who stiles himself in the public papers, member of Assembly for Philadelphia County, Nathaniel Miles his late miller and all other persons for or in behalf of them are hereby forbidden at their peril to touch this house or any house upon this tract of land. And the said John Hughes, member of Assembly for the County of Philadelphia as appears in point, to which I may add Champion for the same and Nathaniel Miles, his late miller and all other persons for as in the name or behalf of either of them wheter as Champions, squires, Knights errant or afficiant men, are at their peril forbid to haunt or frequent this place or any manner of this without permission first obtained from

Henry Callister"

Later, he writes:

"The Millhouse was locked I know not what may be in it. Miles has the key. I nailed a hoop to the door outside to debar the entrance; I know not what more to do. Nan Tate refused to take charge of Hughes his goods, the other women have taken them in custody. I suppose Miles will take charge of them he fears what has happened. I know not how to proceed further than to get a tenant as soon I can, unless Hughes begins a bustle!"

Still later:

"I have just learn'd from old Jn Comegys that the Mill house etc. were not left in the care of Nan Tate and her gang, but in the care of one Sally Moore, who is _____ time, and for some time past has been sick at said Comegys house; He add that she (Sally Moore) declares she will get into the house if it be at the windows. Comegys says he told her that in so doing she would risk the pillars. Miles is gone up to Philadelphia to tell Hughes. Hughes is, you know, a Champion; I shall not perhaps be a ;match for him without some re-inforcement from you."

So, we can determine that there had been a mill on the property prior to the Callister-Hughes feud and that there was still standing a mill house in which this bunch of women lived. Also, we have reference to a miller, Nathaniel Miles. The mill stood at this time on the 1238 acre tract of Crumpton, which was surveyed for Henry Callister.

My first reference to a mill is a deed from William Comegys to Asell Cosden, for the farm on the south side of Rt. 544 which was then called the "mill road". Another deed, dated 1767 was contiguous to this tract and is referenced in a more important deed of 1819.

I had no luck finding a mill or even a mill house listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, however there is mention of Ann Cosden owning the land, and house which does not conform to the size of the existing house. This was in vain since the Cosden lands and the mill property, across the street, did not become one until about 1819, when Winbert Tschudy purchased the properties from William Spencer and Cosden.

An interesting note about Tschudy was found in the Sun Paper by Miss Mildred Corson. It was an article on Dickeyville, a handsome mill village

lying within the present city limits of Baltimore,

"Winbert Tschudi a Swiss immigrant built a stone house and grist mill on the banks of the stream (Gwynns falls) in 1762. Although these structures are no longer standing, the foundations as well as the Tschudi family burial plot can still be found near the Wetheredsville Road, which was originally called Tschudi mill road.

A more lasting monument to this early millwright is the building at 2500 Pickwick Road, which was originally a row of six houses, built in about 1790 for mill workers.

There is no record of what happened to the industrious Tschudi....."

But, we know that either he or his son was to come to Queen Anne's County and either build or renovate a mill on the Red Lion Branch. In a work compiled by John McGrain of the Baltimore County Historical Society on Mills throughout Maryland, there is a reference to this mill. "Wimbert Tschudy was authorized to raise his mill dam by three feet by an Act of Assembly, 1816, Chapter 180. The Orphans Court was to appoint commissioners to estimate the sums to be paid to the neighbors affected. His "Valuable Grist and merchant mill" was on the Red Lyon Branch in the upper part of the county.; The 30-foot race was to pass through the lands of the heirs of James Cosden, of John George, of Nathan Peacock, of John Rochester, and of Benjamin Roberts."

While doing research on the White Swan Tavern, I happened to see in an issue of the Chestertown Telegraph dated May 26, 1826 the following advertisement;

"Wool Carding at Red Lyon Mills

Customers will be set across the river at McCallisters Ferry free of charge"

This puts a new perspective on the mill, for we had only heard of there being a grist and saw mill on the property. This woolen mill or carding mill

6.

post dates the more famous Unicorn Mill, three miles east of Red Lyon, which had been established in 1810 for carding of wool.

In the same year as the Advertisement there are two more deeds recorded at the court house, both of which are for land "occupied by Winbert Tschudy's new Mill Race." One deed is from Lemuel Roberts who probably owned and operated the mill upstream from the mill pond.

Tschudy did not last long at Red Lion Mill for in 1833 or 1834 he died. A survey of his lands was made in that year to be used by his trustees. THIS SURVEY IS WITH US TONIGHT AND IS THE GIFT TO THE SOCIETY FROM MISS MILDRED CORSON OF CRUMPTON.

In all likelihood, the mill remained in operation under lease until it was sold by Ezekiel Forman Chambers, trustee, to William L. Godwin. With the purchase of the 135 acres laid out by Tschudy's trustees came the survey plat. It has remained in possession of Mr. Godwin's heirs until today when Miss Corson gives it to the Society. Along with the plat is also a list of payments made for the property between 1855 and 1864. Without this payment schedule no one would realize that the mill had been in operation by Mr. Godwin prior to the date of the deed, which is 1861.

From here I will go to Miss Corson's fact sheet about the Red Lyon Mills during her grandfather's ownership.

"William Lewis Godwin was born in 1828, married Sarah Catherine Orem in 1849 and raised five girls and two boys. He died in 1886."

"The mills were for lumber as well as stone ground grains - wheat, corn, rye and buckwheat. There were also peach orchards divided by the Millington Crumpton Road."

"The mill had an overshot wheel 8 feet wide and 24 feet in diameter with a 2 mile mill race and forebay leading to the mill, from thence into the creek."

"Mrs. Godwin's brother James H. Orem was the miller. He had a pet black snake to catch rats and mice and was incensed at a customer who with misplaced zeal killed the snake. Other workers at the mill during the Godwin ownership were Jim Hart, Joe Reilly, Tommy Burns, Harry Spry, and Kenny Orem."

It was either during the Godwin Ownership or shortly thereafter that the present structure was erected on the old foundation. In all likelihood, it was after, for we know that in the 1890's a water-fed turbine was installed replacing the old millwheel. The turbine itself was reputed to have been of French manufacture, as were the millstones.

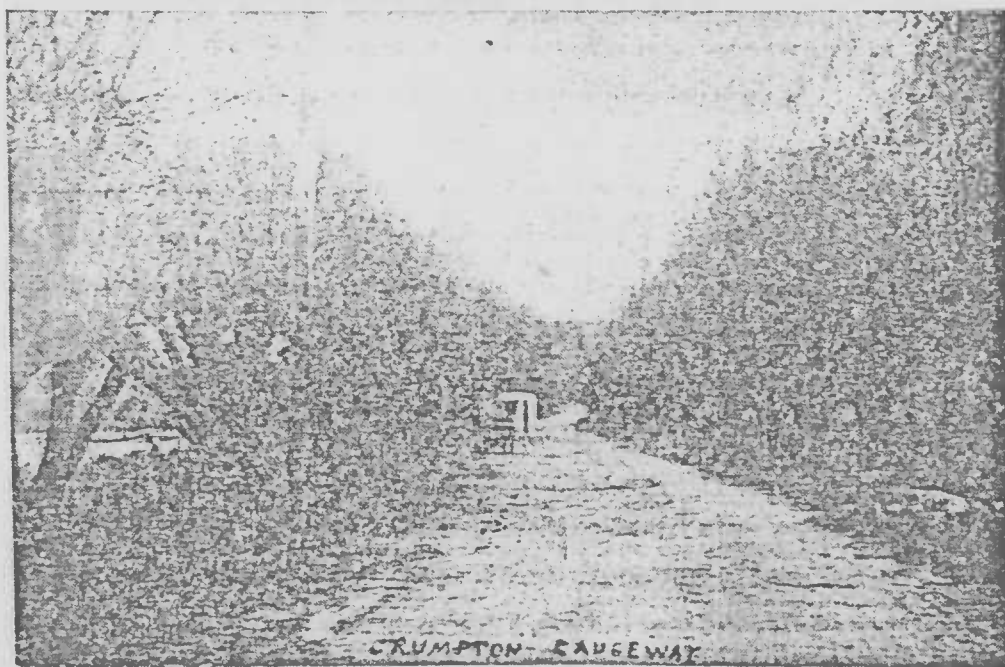
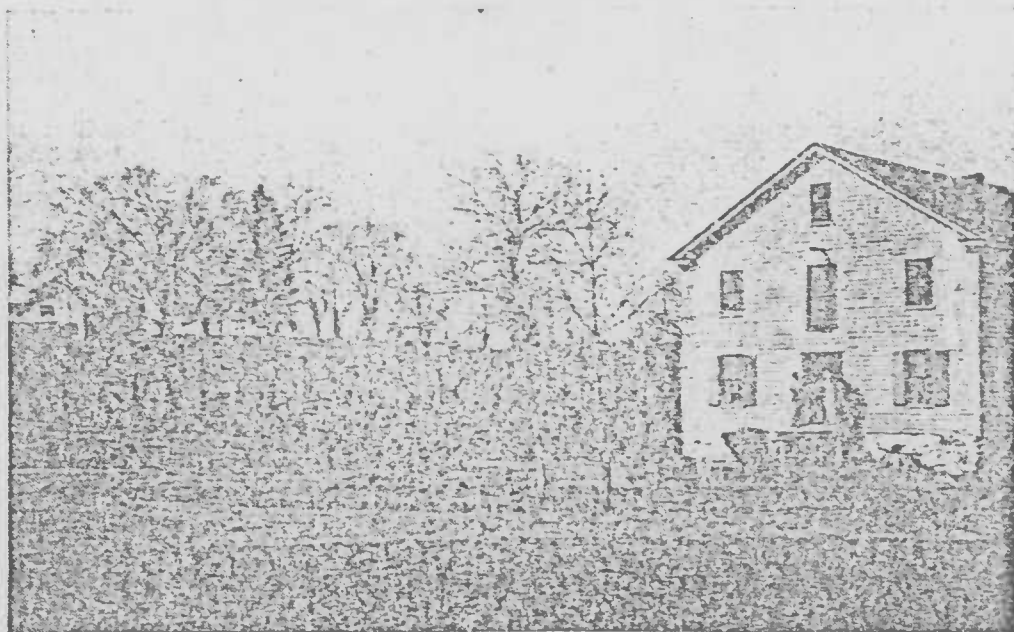
The next big step to be taken was the installation of a huge gasoline engine in 1912, which put the turbine out of operation. Samuel Granberry had leased the mill from John Faulkner in 1909 and in 1915 purchased it, and the remainder of the farm. Granberry sold the farm to my father, Thomas B. Bourne, in 1926, but it was not until 1932 that he sold the mill to my father. The lag in transferring the mill may have been caused by the fact that Mr. Granberry enjoyed operating the mill, but certainly, the fact that father did not settle there until 1930, after he had married Edith Humphreys from Easton, played some part in the delay.

Father's principle occupation was assistant director of the Civil Aeronautic Association (now the FAA). He and mother raised six children on the farm. Millers during this time were Cooper Jewell and Leslie Nickerson. During the last years of operation, my two oldest brothers, Tom and Peter, ran the mill, and tried unsuccessfully to recapture some of the debts.

One of the few improvements my father made to the mill was the installation of a feed mixer, which enabled the mill to mix feed for the chickens which father and mother grew all over the farm. The mill also supplied feed for the public.

Q4-29

Do You Remember?

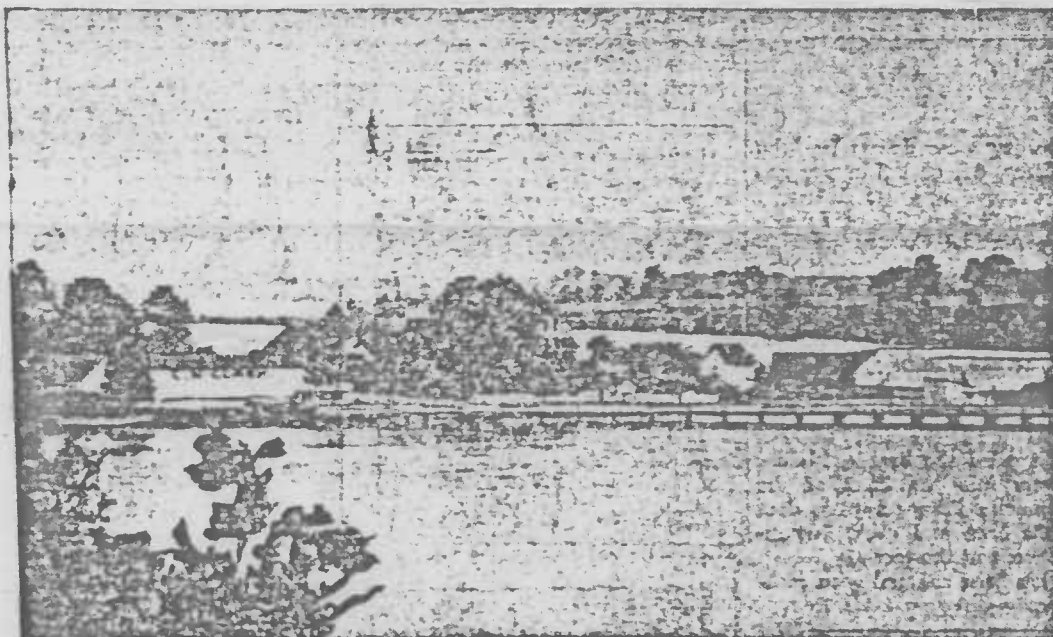


GODWIN'S MILL, Crumpton, 1907—Godwin's Mill, also known as Red Lion Mill, is located on a branch of the same name crossing the road to Millington just beyond the Crumpton Cemetery. The mill property was bought by William Lewis Godwin around 1850 from the Tchudy family. Mr. Robert C. Godwin, who recently, with his wife, the former Sarah Elizabeth Ware, observed their 50th wedding anniversary, resides in Crumpton. He is the youngest and only surviving member of the family of seven children born and reared at the mill property by the William Lewis Godwins. The property is owned today by Thomas Bourne and the old mill minus the old

wheel and the fore-bays is still standing. The house in the background is owned by Mr. Bourne. The last miller, Leslie Nickerson, ran the mill for the Bournes as late as 1945. The mill switched from water power to gasoline power in 1916.

The other picture, also taken in 1907, shows the causeway at Crumpton that was used until the new bridge was built across the Chester River.

Both old photos are from Mrs. Ernestine Crew Baker of Crumpton, and Record-Observer correspondent Mrs. Ida Bowers, supplied the historical background.



CENTREVILLE LANDING—This old picture post card came to us from Mrs. George W. Kenly of Tampa, Florida. It shows the old Long Bridge at the Wharf between 1900 and 1906. This is looking

west with the Corsica River in the background. If you look close you may be able to see the name C. H. CLASH" printed on the warehouse to the left of the picture.

Historic Godwin Mill burns

Arson suspected after three alarm blaze

By DAN TABLER
Special Correspondent

Flames of unknown origin destroyed historic Godwin's Mill, a two-century-old landmark outside Crumpton Monday afternoon, as fire-fighters from three companies sweltered in the 95-degree heat and humidity.

Volunteers from Crumpton, Millington and Sudlersville were on the scene, on Md. 544 near the intersection of 290, for over two hours.

"The fire is under investigation," was the quick comment from Robert Skinner, assistant chief of the Crumpton Fire Co.

"It is definitely suspicious and is under investigation for the possibility of arson," said Vernon Duijn, a state fire investigator called to the scene a few minutes after noon on Monday.

The old wooden structure dates

back to at least 1763, according to Mildred Corson of Crumpton, who has done some research on the building because it was purchased by her late grandfather, Louis Godwin, in 1856.

The flames were spotted by passing motorists, including Crumpton Fire Company president and chief engineer Harold Benton, who said he saw smoke in the sky as he approached it a little after 12 noon.

The alarm was called in to the Queen Anne's Fireboard by Allen Clark, son of the owner of the property, Benjamin A. Clark, from their home about 500 feet west on Md. 544.

"I saw cars slowing and then I could hear flames crackling clear from the house," young Clark said.

The 2-story wooden building, with stone foundation, had been unused for years, but still had some of the

original mill equipment inside, according to the elder Clark who purchased the property in 1966.

He said he would have liked to restore it, but it was not economically feasible. He had wanted to salvage the gears, a large turbine and other equipment inside. He said there was interest in purchasing the property recently by someone who wanted to use it as

a dwelling, but zoning restrictions prohibited it.

"We have kept the grounds cleared, and tried to board it up and keep out vandals," Clark said, "but there have been people get inside within the past two months, because I know some old gears are missing."

(Continued to page 2A)



Photo by Dan Tabler

Smoke rises from the fire-blackened timbers of the old wooden Godwin's Mill as two sweltering volunteer fire-fighters "break down" the 2½-hose line after the fire Monday afternoon believed to have been deliberately set and is under investigation.

into Cecil's Service Center in Queenstown around 4 a.m.

Police said two men entered the

parked near the Kent Island Firemen's Carnival on Kent Island, said state police.

GOP crab feast Sat.

The Queen Anne's County Republicans will stage a crab feast Saturday, July 23, at the county 4-H Park on Rt. 18, outside Centreville.

The crab feast will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance, and \$8.50 at the door.

Along with the crabs, there will be cold Lowenbrau and Miller Lite beer, barbecued chicken, corn on the cob, fresh tomatoes, rolls and soft drinks.

Among the expected guests will be Don Devine, director of the office of personnel management for Maryland, Bob Pascal and Larry Hogan, former candidates for office in the 1982 elections.

Local representatives from Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Kent and Cecil counties are also expected to be on hand.

A bull roast fund raiser is expected for later this year.

Fire

(Continued from page 1A)

"I guess someone just wanted some action today," he said shaking his head sadly.

Dulin said the fire appeared to have started in the basement of the structure that now has just a few blackened timbers atop the stone foundation. It stands about 50 feet off the highway about a quarter-mile east of the intersection of 544 and 290 at the southern edge of Crumpton.

Benton said the building was "fully involved" by the time he drove up and by the time he was able to get back to the firehouse and arrive with the first pumper,

"parts of the roof were blowing everywhere."

The leaping flames charred the tops of trees surrounding the building and burned the dry grass up to the highway.

One pumper set up at Red Lion Branch, 1,200 feet away, and firemen laid hose lines to draft water direct to the fire. Two tankers from Millington and Sudlersville responded with pumps, a rescue truck and ambulance.

The Crumpton Ladies Auxiliary members brought cold drinks to the sweltering fire-fighters.

Once known as Red Lyons Mill or Godwin's Mill, it was used not only as a grain mill, but as a lumber or sawmill. At one time it had a huge 24-foot diameter overshot water wheel.

SUDLERSVILLE.

An elaborate numbering system for all buildings in Queen Anne's County that would assist volunteer fire-fighters and ambulance crews responding to emergency calls, has been endorsed by the Sudlersville Town Commissioners.

It is the first municipal body to approve it for their community, which is only fitting as the Sudlersville Fire Company was the unit which initiated the idea some time ago.

George Bonser, chairman, explained the project at the July 12 meeting of the commissioners, a day after the program was outlined to the Church Hill town commissioners.

There has been no date given for starting the numbering system or how long it might take to complete throughout the county.

In other business, the Sudlersville town board expected to settle on their new town office, formerly the office of the late Dr. C.H. Metcalfe, by the end of last week and with some painting and minor renovations should move into the building by September. It is being used as a dwelling at present.

The town is also patching holes in the surface of the municipally-owned tennis courts back of the

the phone, with metered lights that may be used at night. The courts are the only town-owned tennis courts in the county.

Speaking of Dr. Metcalfe's office, I was set straight by a long-time resident of the community after last week's column. I had said Dr. Metcalfe practiced from the office purchased by the town all during his career. That's not true.

His first office was on Main Street in the brick building down from the four corners where a drug store used to operate on the first floor. When he moved to the office on the other street, a Dr. S. Holt Wright, dentist, had his offices on the second floor for many years.

CHURCH HILL:

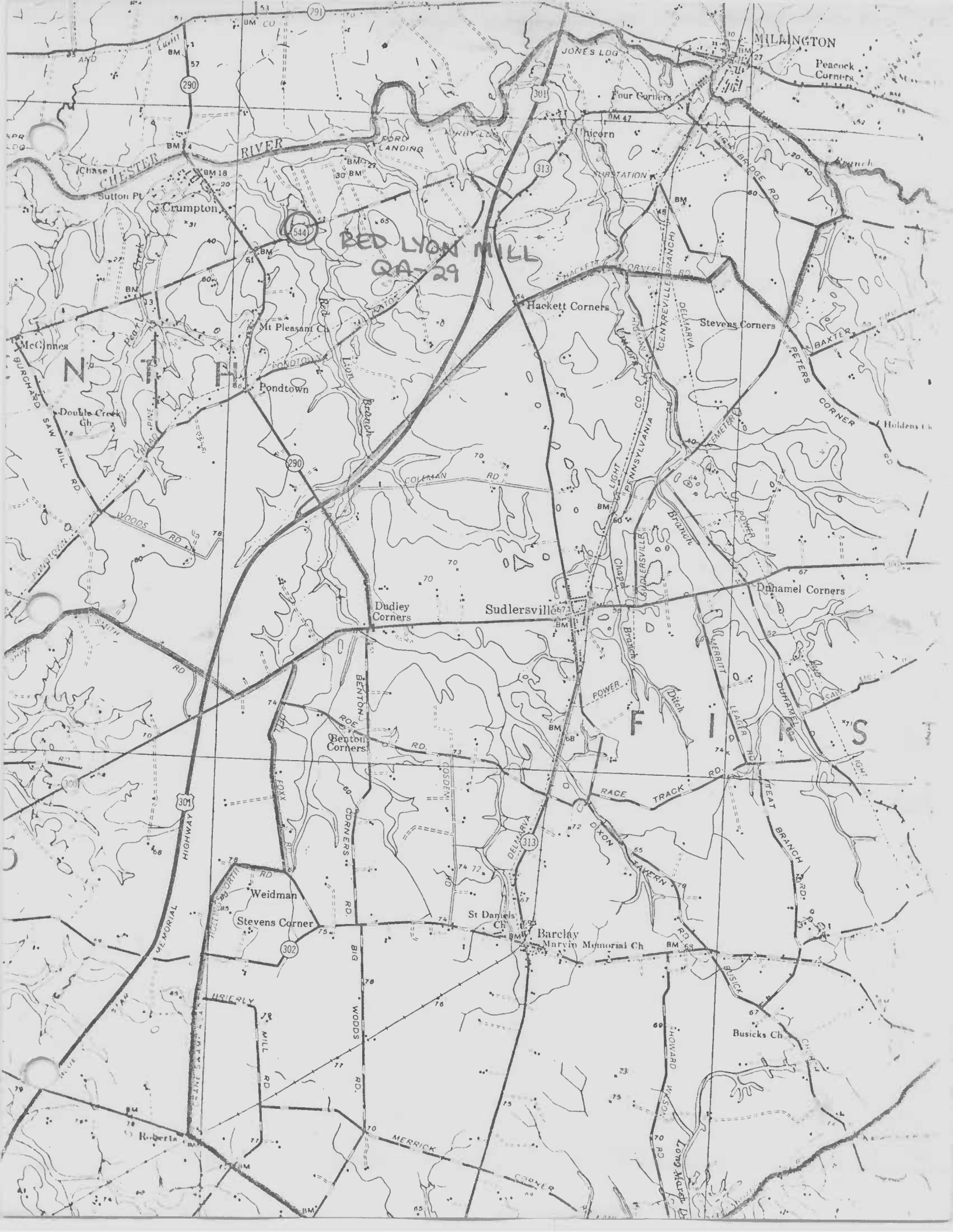
The town commissioners have yet to make a firm decision on the disposal of the community building, now housing their offices and the movie theatre.

That was the word from Town Clerk Jan Almquist the other day. "The commissioners want to do what is best for the town," she said.

A large crowd, probably 15 persons, attended the last town meeting and the commissioners told most of the citizens who represented the "Friends for Church Hill Preservation" they still had not decided what to do

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DA-29 Red Lyon Mill

Crumpton

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4" X 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ "



04-29 Red Lyon Mill
Crumpton

ORV 1978



QA-29

Red Lyon Mill
Crompton vicinity
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)



QA-29

Red Lyon Mill
Crompton vicinity
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
Ground floor



QA-29 Red Lyon Mill

Crumpton vic

OR v 1978



DA-29 Red Lyon Mill
Crumpton vic.

OK V 1978



QA-29 Red Lyon Mill
Crompton vicinity, Md.
Orlando Ridout V, 1978 (MHT)
Second floor